

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. John Abrams, USA, commanding general, 2d Infantry Division, Camp Casey, and Gen. Gary E. Luck, USA, commander in chief, U.S. Forces, Korea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks at the U.S.S. Arizona
Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii**
July 11, 1993

Admiral Larson, ladies and gentlemen, it's a great honor for me to be here, not for the first time but for the first time as President, to honor the memory and the service of those who were killed 52 years ago on a Sunday morning like this in the service of their country. During December of 1941, Americans throughout our Nation were going about their business aware that much of the rest of the world was already embroiled in a conflict but hopeful that America would not be forced into it, that somehow by standing apart we might keep America's shores and our sons and daughters safe from the strife that had then engulfed much of the rest of the world.

Much has changed since that fateful Sunday morning in 1941. The United States no longer faces the threat of an expansionist Germany or Japan. Indeed, I have just met with the leaders of those two nations and four others in an attempt to increase the prosperity and opportunity of all the peoples who live within our nations. The expansionist Soviet Union, which sprung up after the Great War, was dismantled in the failure of communism in the last few years. And at this same meeting in Tokyo, the new democratically elected President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, came and talked to us about how together we might build a brighter and freer and more prosperous future for his people.

Our closest friends now are those with whom we fought a half a century ago. And yet, it is still as clear now as it was then that

the United States cannot disengage from the world. To be economically and physically secure, we must continue to be strong. In visits to Japan and to Korea I have reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to the security of our allies and friends in the Pacific, beginning with a continuing military presence made possible by the men and women who serve our Nation here at Pearl Harbor and throughout the region. As we honor those who gave their lives a half century ago, let us also honor those who guard our security today.

I had breakfast with some of the young men and women of the Pacific Command this morning. And Admiral, I thank you very much for that opportunity. I was profoundly impressed by their energy, their discipline, their knowledge, their commitment, their willingness to do their jobs. I met with other members of our Armed Forces in Korea yesterday, including in the DMZ, where I was able to take the most forward position that any American President has ever enjoyed, standing on the Bridge of No Return about 10 yards from the dividing line which still separates us from what is perhaps the most anachronistic Communist regime remaining in the world.

I believe more strongly than ever before that the world has never had a better fighting force than the men and women who serve in the military service of our country. We are all in their debt for their service and their dedication. We are all proud of what they do for us.

So in the presence of this memorial to those who gave their all in 1941, looking across the harbor at our magnificent fleet of 1993, let us resolve today to honor their sacrifice and their service by maintaining the best prepared and best equipped force in the world, always ready to meet any challenge, always worthy, and receiving our full support.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Charles Larson, commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command.

Remarks to the Community in Honolulu

July 11, 1993

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mayor Fasi, Congressman Abercrombie, Congresswoman Mink, Senator Akaka, my longtime and good friend Governor Waihee. When I look out here at this wonderful scene tonight, it is almost impossible for me to remember that in the snows of New Hampshire in 1992, when many people thought I had no chance to be elected President, John Waihee left this scene and came to that snow to campaign for me, and I'll never forget it. Thank you very much.

I want to thank all of you for coming out and all the people behind me. I can't turn around and face them or the sound will go off. I am so glad to be home. How's this? [Applause] Like that. [Applause]

It is wonderful to be home after my first trip overseas as your President. I went to Asia to a meeting of the world's seven great industrial nations. I also went to meet in Japan and Korea and here today in Hawaii with the people who are in charge of the national security interests of the United States in Asia and the Pacific region. This morning I ended that trip with a visit to the *Arizona* Memorial and a briefing by the commander in chief of our forces in the Pacific and his senior officers.

As Hillary said, yesterday we were in Korea along the Demilitarized Zone. And I walked out further than any American President ever had onto the Bridge of No Return, about 10 yards from the line separating South and North Korea. And with my binoculars I looked into the other side, and I saw some young North Korean soldiers looking back at me. And I thought to myself, I wish you could walk over this bridge, and I hope it won't be long until you can, until we put down the threat of nuclear war and open up the hand of friendship.

You would be very proud if you could see what I saw in Korea, in Japan, see the young men and women who voluntarily have joined our Nation's Armed Forces and gone there and represent us with great ability and enormous enthusiasm, I might add, young people

from every State in this country. And I was proud of them, and you can feel better about your country just seeing and knowing that they're there.

The other thing I did on this trip was to worry about what I could do abroad to help our economy here at home. There is a direct connection, as the people of Hawaii know as well as any people in America, between how well America does and how well the rest of the world does. We have been in a period of slow economic growth with great problems in creating new jobs, in raising incomes. But I went to Japan, which is having its lowest period of economic performance in 20 years, to meet with leaders from Europe, where every nation has a higher unemployment rate than we do and many countries are in their lowest period of economic performance in 30 or 40 years. There is a global economic slowdown, and we have to turn it around to open opportunities for Americans.

To be sure, there are things we can do here, and we have made a beginning, a serious beginning at bringing the terrible budget deficit down and spending less on things we shouldn't spend on and investing more in education, in technology, in defense conversion, and building a stronger future for the American people.

We are building new partnerships with people in their private capacities. Something I did as President when I was overseas was to meet with over 350 Americans representing business interests in Japan and then meeting with the executive board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea to talk about what we could do together to create opportunities for American businesses and American workers.

And we are making some progress. We have interest rates at a 20-year low, millions of people refinancing their homes and their business loans, almost one million new jobs in the American economy since January. That compares with only a million new jobs in 3 years before then. We are making some progress, but we've got a long way to go.

I want to tell you what this trip meant for America and what it means for Hawaii. First of all, we agreed among ourselves, these seven nations, that we would support the reduction in tariffs in the trade of manufactur-